

Divorce Law Almost Completed

Vatican City—(NC)—The Italian Senate has approved a bill that all but assures the legalization of divorce in Italy.

Amendments added in the Senate sent the bill automatically back to the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies. Nevertheless, Senate approval more or less clears the last obstacle to the introduction of divorce in Italy.

The proposal has been strongly opposed by Pope Paul VI and by the Italian bishops. Also opposed is the majority of the Christian Democratic party in Italy, united a bit awkwardly with the Neo-Fascist party.

The day following passage of the bill through the Senate, the Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano, said it "cannot fail to cause perplexity and grief."

More Support For Dom Helder

Ottawa, Ontario—(NC)—The Canadian Catholic bishops have issued a statement "strongly supporting" the candidacy of Archbishop Helder Camara of Olinde-Recife, Brazil, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Canadians said the fiery prelate, who only last week was accused of subversion by a governor of a Brazil state, should be recognized for his struggle "for the dignity of the human person and for the reform of social structures by non-violent means."

Archbishop Camara has made two recent appearances in Canada and the bishops' statement reflects public support for him in this country.

Bosch Blasts Birth Control

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic —(NC)— Latin America does not need birth control programs; it needs better social, political, and economic systems, former President Juan Bosch declared here.

"Instead of supressing the life of future generations, we must dedicate ourselves to giving them a free, rich and just society in which all men share equally in freedom, wealth, and justice," he said.

His speech was a response to one by sociologist Luis Gonzalez Fabra, the new executive secretary of the National Council for Family Planning and Population. Gonzalez had praised the nation's family planning programs, which he said were serving "an astonishing number of women."

Although 92 percent of the population of the Dominican Republic is Catholic, Gonzalez said he feels religion is a deterrent to family planning only in areas where there are priests and nuns from Spain.

Population Warning Sounded

Brussels—(RNS)—A Dutch proponent of ethical humanism told a Vatican-sponsored meeting here that a program of worldwide family planning must be implemented before a "world explosion of war or pestilence" occurs.

Prof. Japp Van Praag, a delegate of the International Humanist and Ethical Union, made the plea during a conference organized by the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers.

The three-day meeting occasioned the discussion of topics which included "Demands of an Open Society," "Common Responsibilities in World Policy," and "Common Underlying Values of Humanism."

Manhattan College Poll Reveals Few Draft Resisters

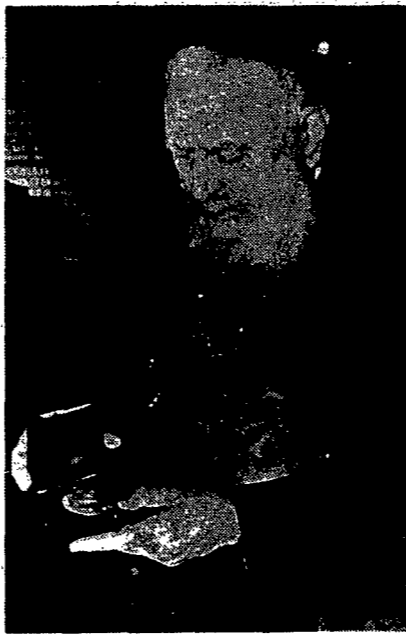
Riverdale, N.Y. — Manhattan College students indicated overwhelmingly that they would serve in the military if drafted and gave strong approval to on-campus ROTC in a poll made public this week by the student government.

If drafted, 74% of those responding said they would report as ordered, while 14% would refuse, leaving themselves open to possible conviction and imprisonment. A little

more than 12% indicated they would leave the country rather than face military service.

The poll gathered responses from 2,053 of the college's 3,400 undergraduates.

Eight out of ten students answering felt the ROTC program had a place on campus. Only 17% said that the local unit, which is conducted by the U.S. Air Force, should be removed.



Cardinal Honored

Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, admires the Medal of the City of Paris he received from Paris city council president Didier Delfour after giving the official a cross of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. (RNS)

Nurses' Strike Forces Halt In Abortions

London — (RNS) — For the second time in four months, nurses in a state-maintained hospital brought abortions to a halt by refusing to take part in further operations.

The first incident occurred last June, when nurses at the Stepping Hill Hospital at Stockport revolted against the growing number of abortion cases and the distasteful task of disposing of fetuses.

Now, nurses have "struck" at Harold Wood Hospital at Romford, just east of London. The hospital's secretary, H. J. Salis, told newsmen:

"There has been a certain amount of resistance to abortion operations, and nurses are becoming increasingly upset by the growing list of abortions. We have not got sufficient willing nurses to deal with the growing number of patients. The situation is acute."

'Right-To-Life' Program Puts Women in Pulpits

Camden, N.J. —(NC)— Instead of equal rights, abortion was the subject of the first sermons ever preached by women in South Jersey Catholic churches.

A mother expecting her fourth child preached two homilies at St. John's Church here, saying that any woman who has carried a child knows there's life in a fetus.

Knowing this, said Mrs. Barry Johnson, "Why destroy it? Why not wait until the child is born, letting the uterus empty itself naturally, and then see if you want the child? If not, then give the child to someone who does want it."

Mrs. Allen Knestaut, mother of five, was another of three lay women who along with at least 43 laymen, preached ser-

mons on the anti-abortion theme of "A Right to Life" at churches throughout the Camden diocese.

In Mrs. Knestaut's three sermons, also at St. John's, she related a personal experience. While carrying her youngest son, Andrew, in 1964, three of her other four children contracted German measles, she said.

"At that time," she told the parishioners, "a woman I had met told me she would not hesitate to have an abortion if she were me because I had been exposed to the disease. 'I was fearful, but thank God I didn't contract the disease myself. But what if I had been influenced and panicked by this woman's advice?'"

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